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Webster's  
Third  
New International  
Dictionary  
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
UNABRIDGED

*A Merriam-Webster*  
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*Utilizing all the experience and resources of more than  
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EDITOR IN CHIEF  
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MERRIAM-WEBSTER INC., Publishers

A

change (change of attitude) (racial relations seem to be changing)  
popular mood changed] (racial relations seem to be changing)  
for the better) b (1) : to pass from one form, appearance,  
position, state, or stage to another: *SHIFT* the country has  
survived changing governments) (2) *SWAY* till the light ~s  
(changing world conditions) (fashions ~ like the weather) (2)  
obs : to pale or bluish (how the ~) Their cheeks are paper  
~Shak.) 3 : to increase or decrease (prices ~ overnight)  
d : to adopt different customs, methods, attitudes (people  
don't like to ~ —J.P. Blau) *specif* : to experience a religious  
conversion 4 of the moon : to pass from one phase to another  
*specif* : to pass through the phase of new moon 1 chiefly dial  
to turn sour : become tainted 2 : to shift one's means of con-  
veyance : TRANSFER (there we changed to a local train) b of the  
voice : to shift to lower register : BREAK 3 Brit : to shift gears  
2 : to turn into or become something materially different from  
before : a : to undergo transformation or conversion — used  
of money does indeed ~ into a quality of personality —Lionel  
Trilling) b : to pass over from one character or state : undergo  
transition — used with to (winter changed to spring) (the  
rain changed gradually from rolling farm land to rugged moorland  
country) (the chilly sensations ~ to discomfort and the acuity  
of touch sensations and muscular reactions are dulled —H.G.  
Armstrong) c : to undergo substantial substitution or re-  
placement : to undergo replaced (external circumstances  
may ~ catastrophically, as during a war —Aldous Huxley)  
~s considerably as the animals grow older and larger —W.H.  
Dowdswell) (how the objects of a war may ~ completely  
during its progress —Zachariah Chafee) 3 : to disrobe and re-  
array oneself more suitably esp. in clothes suitable for a social  
or formal occasion (prepared to ~ for dinner) 4 a obj : to ac-  
cept something else in return (but might I of love's nectar  
sip I would not ~ for thine —Ben Jonson) b obj : to give up  
giving something and receiving something in return : EX-  
CHANGE (I need a lighter ax; I'll ~ with you)  
SYN ALTER, MODIFY, VARY: CHANGE is wide in use and meaning  
and may be used in place of any of the others in this set on  
most occasions. ALTER may suggest changes only in a single  
detail or characteristic, without an ensuing loss of identity or  
new essential character (he looked ~ with clouded eyes and  
with an altered manner of breathing —Charles Dickens)  
(Tockwotton House, now form Tockwotton Park —Amer.  
Guide Series R. 7) MODIFY may indicate a change away from  
an extreme or a minor change made in the interest of adapting  
to a new use, function, or significance (Boner, refusing to  
modify his politics, found all doors closed to him in his own  
state —Tremaine McDowell) (all of these have their respiratory  
organs modified to suit their mode of respiration —Joyce Kilmer)  
VARY stresses a breaking away (from sapientia, from identity,  
duplication, exact repetition (the precise course accurately marked  
may be varied ~, but it is to be strictly preserved —John Marshall)  
out by law and ~, but it is to be strictly preserved —John Marshall)  
(tasks may be varied slightly, as when a worker in a cigarette  
factory is shifted from the job of feeding tobacco into a ma-  
chine to the job of packing and weighing —Aldous Huxley)  
~ change color : to undergo a blanching or a diffusion of  
color in one's face usu. revealing a sudden emotion (he turned  
from fear, a blush of shame or embarrassment —Joyce Kilmer)  
~ change ends of a hunting gear : to reverse direction  
in scent-following 2 : to pass from the possession of one person  
~ change hands : to pass from the possession of one person  
~ change to another or from one of two contesting teams or  
armies to the other — change one's feet Scot : to put on  
other shoes or other shoes and stockings — change step : to  
reverse the order in which the feet are advanced in walking  
esp. by bringing one foot almost up to the other and then  
stepping off with the foot that is in advance — change the  
leg of a horse : to change gait  
~ change ~ n s [ME, fr. *fr. changer*, v. — more at  
~CHANGE] 1 : the action of making something different in form,  
quality, or state : the fact of becoming different : introduction  
of novelty (~ consists in realizing a potentiality that is not real  
already —W.T. Harris) (things and processes are the sort of  
entities of which ~ is predictable —Arthur Pap) (in other  
words, ~ is concomitant variation in time and space with im-  
plication spect —Nelson Goodman) — used often without implication  
as to bettering or worsening and often with an implication of  
undirection or haphazardness 2 a : an instance of making or  
becoming different in some particular : a departure from a  
norm : a deviation from established character, sequence, or  
condition 3 a divergence from uniformity or constancy in any  
quality, quantity, or degree : ALTERATION, MODIFICATION, VA-  
RIATION, MUTATION (but in the daily routine of their business  
there was little ~ —Thomas Hardy) (Or while there have  
been several clear and distinct ~s in the pattern, the essence of  
the university tradition has through all the years remained  
constant —J.B. Conant) (quite clear, there is no ~ in  
phenomenal any more than in physical time —Nelson Good-  
man) b : a passing from one state to another marked by  
radical different makeup, character, or operation, whether by  
sudden mutation or gradually by evolution : TRANSFORMATION,  
CONVERSION (there is always the danger that people who are  
impatient when ~ comes too slowly will attempt violent solu-  
tions —P.E. James) (the semantics of functional ~) (since the  
beginning of the 20th century, however, the time span of social  
~ is shorter than a human life —Maurice Graney) (another  
kind of evidence for the ubiquitousness of ~ in culture can be  
drawn from our own everyday experience as well as from  
nonliterary societies —M.J. Herskovits) c : a shift in relation  
to surroundings (as to a different place, situation, course  
level) (prices are subject to ~ without notice) d : a switch to  
contrasting character or trend : REVERSAL 8 : CHANGE OF LIFE  
1 obs : INCONSTANCY (it is the woman's part ~ ambitions, mu-  
coverings, ~ of prides, disdain, nice longing, standers, muta-  
bility ~ for even to vice they are ~ constant —Shak.)  
g : a religious or moral conversion h : any step in the manu-  
facture of soap by boiling including drawing off and addition  
of lye (as by or brine) (strong ~) (salt ~) 3 : the action  
of replacing something with something else of the same kind or  
with something that serves as a substitute : SUBSTITUTION (be-  
ware of sudden ~ in any great point of diet —Francis Bacon)  
(but ~ of air changes not the mind —John Milton) : a : a re-  
placing of some agent, method, means, material, or other sub-  
ject of regard with a different one (wore out foot of horse  
as he galloped all night —Dorothy C. Fisher) (striking for ~  
in working conditions) b : a shift from some mode of personal  
action or disposition or matter of concern to a different one

receive 11 cents in ~) (a cashier quick at making ~) d slang  
esp. of low denominations (jingling a pocketful of ~) d slang  
money in hand : DOUGH 7 : any order in which a set of bells  
is rung in change ringing properly other than that of the  
scale but loosely including it (in ringing the ~ a bell  
must shift one place in position or keep its position) 8-a (1)  
FIGURE 13a (2) in *square dancing* : a dancing of the figure  
around the set b : CALL 14  
change ~ adj [~change] *archaic* : serving or held ready to  
serve as a substitute  
change-ability ~\ch'anjə'bīləd-ē, -atē, -ī\ n [ME *change-*  
*abilite*, fr. *changeabil*, changeable changeable + *-ite* -ity]  
the capacity of being changeable or changed : CHANGEABLE-  
NESS  
change-able ~\ch'anjə'bəl\ adj [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *changer*  
to change + *-able*] 1 : liable to change; *specif* : having a  
marked tendency to change esp. as a property (as in form,  
quality, action) 2 : fluctuating in direction or tendency : MU-  
TABLE, VARIABLE 2 : capable of being changed : subject to  
change : ALTERABLE (a provision ~ at will) 3 : given or prone  
to change esp. as a characteristic : erratic in disposition  
4 : CAPRICIOUS, FICKLE, INCONSTANT, MERCURIAL, UNSTABLE  
4 : varying in color with the change of light or point of view;  
*specif* : having such a color effect produced in certain fabrics  
(as taffeta) by weaving contrasting colors in warp and weft  
change-able-ness ~\nə's\ n -es [ME *changeableness*, fr.  
changeable + *-ness* -ness] the quality or state of being  
changeable + *-ness* -ness)  
change-ably ~\bīl-, -ī\ adv [ME, alternately, fr. *changeable*  
change-ably 1 obs : in exchange 2 obs : in alternation 3 *archaic*  
with the possibility of changing or being changed (events  
scheduled ~ depending on weather conditions) 4 : with fre-  
quent changing or shifting : VARIABLY, INCONSTANTLY (the  
instrument needle flicking ~) (~ disposed on successive bal-  
lots) 5 : with changing shades or hues (feathers on the  
drake's neck glinting ~)  
change-about ~\nə's\ n -s [~change + about, adv.] : a reversal  
change-about or direction  
change-bowler n [~change] : a relief bowler in cricket  
change-bowling n [~change] : the bowling in cricket  
change-ful ~\fəl\ adj : given to or full of frequent changes  
~ change-fully ~\fəl-ē\ adv  
change gear n 1 : a gear by means of which the speed of a  
mechanism or of a vehicle may be changed while the speed of  
its driving agent is constant 2 : any of a set of interchange-  
able gears for varying the speed ratio between two shafts (as on  
a screw-cutting lathe) — called also *change wheel*  
change house n (prob. so called fr. its original use as a station  
where horses were changed) 1 Scot : a small inn or alehouse  
2 : a locker building in which workers may wash and change  
their clothes — called also *dryhouse*  
change key n 2 : a key that operates only one lock of a master-  
keyed lock system  
change-less ~\ləs\ adj : that does not change : UNCHANGING,  
CONSTANT — change-less-ly adv — change-less-ness n -es  
change-ling ~\lɪŋ-, -lɪŋ\ n -s [~change + -ling] 1 *archaic*  
change-ling wavers : one marked by fickleness or inconstancy;  
2 : TRAITOR, TURNCOAT 2 a obs : a fraudulent substitute  
superstitiously left in place of a valued object or personage  
b (1) : a child left in place of another child carried away  
one of noble birth (2) in folk tradition : a doomed or weak-  
witted offspring of fairies or elves substituted by them super-  
stitiously for a comely human child — called also *elf child*  
3 *archaic* : IMBECILE 4 : COLOR CHANGELING  
~ change-ling ~\lɪŋ\ adj 1 *archaic* : WAVERING, INCONSTANT  
2 : markedly altered from an original or native condition (his  
return to his family in Bombay ~ half a stranger in dress  
and speech, wholly ~ in his un-Indian attitudes —John Wood-  
burn)  
changemaker ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n [~change (money) + maker] : a device  
that mechanically supplies change in coins of desired denomi-  
nations upon the operation of the proper levers or keys  
change-ment ~\tʃ'æŋ-mənt\ n -s [ME, fr. *changer* to change +  
-ment — more at CHANGE] *archaic* : CHANGE 1, 2, 3  
change-ment de pied ~\tʃ'æŋ-mənt də pyē\ n, pl *changements de*  
pied ~\pē\ [F, lit., change of foot] ballet dancing : a jump start-  
ing and ending with the feet crossed but with their positions  
interchanged  
change note n [~change (money)] : a note of irregular issue in  
a low denomination serviceable as small change locally and  
redeemable in regular notes of larger denominations  
change-of-day line n : an interruption of continuity by a sudden  
change of edge 2 : a skating figure or maneuver in which the  
skater shifts from one edge of the blade to the other — compare  
SERPENTINE  
change off vt 1 : to alternate with another at performing an  
act 2 : to alternate between two different acts or instruments  
or between an action and a rest period  
change of heart : a full reversal in position or attitude  
change of life 1 : CLIMACTERIC 2 : MENOPAUSE  
change of pace 1 : an interruption of continuity by a sudden  
and usu. temporary shift to a sharply different manner of  
action (as for relief from monotony) (he found the work  
tedious, so ~ for a change of pace, he joined the army —John  
Kobler) 2 : a slow pitch in baseball that is thrown for de-  
ception with the same motion as a fast ball — called also  
change-up  
change of voice : the gradual change in quality and pitch of  
voice occurring in boys about the age of puberty  
change over vt 1 : to convert to a different purpose or system or  
from use of one method or technique to another (change over  
a plant to production of jet engines) ~ vi 1 : to make a transfer,  
a abrupt transition, or conversion (the industry changed over  
from steam to electricity)  
change-over ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n -s [~change over] 1 : the action of chang-  
ing over (the point of ~ from low to high pressure) 2 : an  
instance of changing over : a : a shift from one operation, one  
set of equipment or facilities, or one production model to  
another b : a conversion to a different system, program, or  
method c : a change to one of economic or social conditions or  
transition from one set of cultural or social conditions to  
another d : the changing from one projector to another between  
reels during the continuous screening of a motion picture or program of motion pictures  
change pocket n [~change (money)] : a small pocket often  
within a larger pocket (as in a woman's purse or a man's  
jacket) for holding small change  
chang-er ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə(r)\ n -s [ME *changer*, alter. (influenced by  
ME *ere* -er) of *changeour*, fr. MF *changeour* money changer,  
man assigned to each bell; called also *peal* : see PEAL  
change-room ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n : a room suitable for changing one's clothes  
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chan-go-an ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n -s usu cap [Sp *chango* (of AmerInd origin) + E -an] : a language family consisting of Chango  
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ch'ank ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n, -o, -i, -v -ED/-ING/-s [prob. alter of 'champ' dial : chew noisily : CHAMP  
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ch'ank-ings ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n, -oŋ-, -iŋ-, -kiŋ- n pl [pl. of *chanking*, gerund of 'chank] dial : scraps or rejected parts of fruit or nuts (as chewed pieces or parings)  
chan-nel ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n -s [ME *chanel*, fr. OF, fr. L *canalis* pipe, channel — more at CANAL] 1 a : the hollow bed where a nat-  
ural body or stream of water runs or may run b : the deeper part of a moving body of water (as a river, harbor, or strait) where the main current flows or which affords the best passage  
c : a straight or narrow sea between two close land masses (the  
English Channel) (the Mozambique Channel) d : a means or  
instrumentality aiding communication or expression or com-  
mercial exchange (alongside the familiar press, radio, and film  
media ~ other ~s have multiplied —E.D. Canham) e chan-  
nels pl : a fixed, accustomed, or official course of communi-  
cation or transmission of information or of commercial inter-  
change (submitting material to the Defense Department with-  
out Army ~s —N.Y. Times) f : a out going through prescribed  
person through whom information is transmitted (he ~ ap-  
pears to have been one of Beckford's ~s for communication  
with Courtenay —Times Lit. Supp.) g : a way, course, or  
direction of thought or action (the accident which directed  
my curiosity originally into this ~ —Charles Lamb); *specif*  
a restricted path of movement (as of traffic directed between  
islands at an intersection) h : RIVER 4 i : a band of frequen-  
cies of sufficient width for a single radio or television com-  
munication being as little as a few cycles per second wide for  
telegraphy or as great as several megacycles wide for television  
j : the mechanism providing a single path in multiple-path  
systems for simultaneously and separately recording or trans-  
mitting sounds from more than one source; also : the complete  
system from microphone to recorder in single-path systems  
2 a : an esp. tubular enclosed passage : CONDUIT, PIPE, DUCT  
(the poison ~ in a snake's fangs) b : any of the chambers  
holding identical matrices in a circulating matrix typesetting  
machine 3 a : long narrow groove or furrow : a : a street  
or road gutter b : CANAL 4 c : a flute in a column d : a  
groove cut along the line where rock is to be split e : a slant-  
ing groove cut around the edge of an outsole of a shoe on the  
grain surface for embedding stitches; also : one of two parallel  
grooves cut around the edge of an insole on the flesh surface  
forming a ridge to which the welt is sewed f : the track for  
the rope in a tackle block g : a metal beam or strip having a  
U-shaped section SYN see MEAN  
~channel ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ vb *channeled* or *channeled* : *channeled* or  
channeled : *channeling* or *channeling* : *channels* vt  
channeled : *channeling* or *channeling* : *channel* vt  
1 a : to form, cut, or wear a channel in (spring freshets may  
~ the fields) (the river ~ed a new course) b : to incise with  
a series of parallel flutes : GROOVE (~ a chair leg) c : to lower  
(an automobile body) by rebuilding with channels which fit  
around the frame rails — compare CHOP vt 4 2 : to traverse  
by or as if by channels (moors ~ed by pastoral valleys)  
3 a : to send or convey through or as if through a channel  
(~ materials and labor into housing); *specif* : to direct  
through or into a fixed or official course b : to direct (feelings

man assigned to each bell; called also *peal* : see PEAL  
change-room ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ n : a room suitable for changing one's clothes  
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ing groove cut around the edge of an outsole of a shoe on the  
grain surface for embedding stitches; also : one of two parallel  
grooves cut around the edge of an insole on the flesh surface  
forming a ridge to which the welt is sewed f : the track for  
the rope in a tackle block g : a metal beam or strip having a  
U-shaped section SYN see MEAN  
~channel ~\tʃ'æŋ-ə\ vb *channeled* or *channeled* : *channeled* or  
channeled : *channeling* or *channeling* : *channels* vt  
channeled : *channeling* or *channeling* : *channel* vt  
1 a : to form, cut, or wear a channel in (spring freshets may  
~ the fields) (the river ~ed a new course) b : to incise with  
a series of parallel flutes : GROOVE (~ a chair leg) c : to lower  
(an automobile body) by rebuilding with channels which fit  
around the frame rails — compare CHOP vt 4 2 : to traverse  
by or as if by channels (moors ~ed by pastoral valleys)  
3 a : to send or convey through or as if through a channel  
(~ materials and labor into housing); *specif* : to direct  
through or into a fixed or official course b : to direct (feelings







F: increas var of ENCLASP

